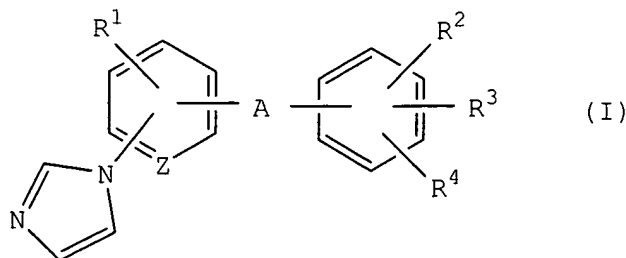


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~A MAG-expression promoter~~ method of promoting expression of MAG comprising administering a compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an alkoxy group;

R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

R^4 is an alkyl group, $-COOH$, $-COOR^5$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-CH_2NR^6R^7$, $-CH_2OH$ or $-CH_2OR^8$;

wherein R^5 and R^6 - R^8 are each an alkyl group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, or R^6 and R^7 in combination form imidazole together with the adjacent nitrogen atom;

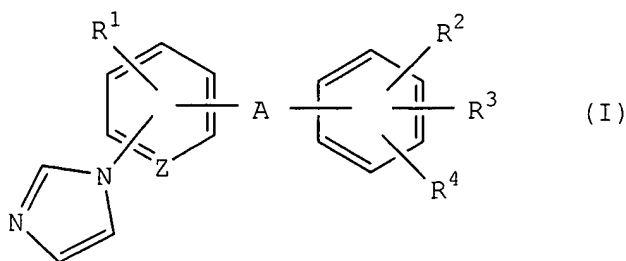
A is $-CH(OH)-$, $-C(=O)-$ or $-CH_2-$; and

Z is $=CH-$ or $=N-$,

an optically active form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal.

2-9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently amended) ~~A method for prophylaxis and/or therapy of a disease caused by hypomyelination~~ promoting a myelination of axon, which method comprises administering a compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an alkoxy group;

R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

R^4 is an alkyl group, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOR}^5$, $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{OR}^8$;

wherein R^5 and R^6 are each an alkyl group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, or R^6 and R^7 in combination form imidazole together with the adjacent nitrogen atom;

A is $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ or $-\text{CH}_2-$; and

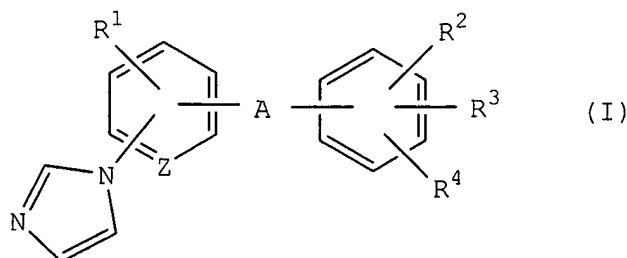
Z is $=\text{CH}-$ or $=\text{N}-$,

an optically active form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to ~~mammals~~ inclusive of human a mammal.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein, in the formula (I), R^1 is a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an alkoxy group.

12. (Currently amended) A method for ~~prophylaxis and/or therapy of a disease caused by hypomyelination~~ promoting a myelination of axon, which method comprises administering 4- $[\alpha$ -hydroxy-5-(1-imidazolyl)-2-methylbenzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid, an optically active form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to ~~mammals~~ inclusive of human a mammal.

13. (Currently amended) A method for ~~prophylaxis and/or therapy of a disease~~ mainly presenting dysmyelination or demyelination promoting a myelination of axon, which method comprises administering a compound of the formula (I)



wherein

R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an alkoxy group;

R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

R^4 is an alkyl group, $-COOH$, $-COOR^5$, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-CH_2NR^6R^7$, $-CH_2OH$ or $-CH_2OR^8$;

wherein R^5 and R^6 are each an alkyl group, and R^6 and R^7 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, or R^6 and R^7 in combination form imidazole together with the adjacent nitrogen atom;

A is $-CH(OH)-$, $-C(=O)-$ or $-CH_2-$; and

Z is $=CH-$ or $=N-$,

an optically active form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to ~~mammals inclusive of human~~ a mammal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein, in the formula (I), R^1 is a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an alkoxy group.

15. (Currently amended) A method for ~~prophylaxis and/or therapy of a disease~~ mainly presenting dysmyelination or demyelination promoting a myelination of axon, which method comprises administering 4-[α -hydroxy-5-(1-imidazolyl)-2-methylbenzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid, an optically active form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to ~~mammals inclusive of human~~ a mammal.

16-18. (Cancel)

19-30. (Cancelled)

31-36. (Cancel)

37. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the mammal is a human.

38. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal is a human.

39. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the mammal is a human.

40. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the mammal is a human.